

## CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of preventing a client from directly contacting  
2 a server that is protected by a load distribution server from  
3 an overload of traffic, comprising:

4 determining whether the client's request to receive  
5 a file from the content server originated as a reference  
6 from the load distribution server or as a reference from  
7 the content server itself; and

8 responsive to determining that the client's request  
9 to receive the file from the content server did not  
10 originate as the reference from the load distribution  
11 server or as the reference from the content server  
12 itself, sending to the client a file requesting that the  
13 client contact the load distribution server;

1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

2 responsive to determining that the request to  
3 receive the file from the content server did originate  
4 as the reference from the load distribution server or as  
5 the reference from the content server itself, sending to  
6 the client the file requested.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

2 including in the file requesting that the client contact  
3 the load distribution server a means by which the client may  
4 directly contact the load distribution server through an  
5 initiative of a user of the client.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2 offering in the file requesting that the client contact  
3 the load distribution server a means to update a bookmark  
4 file to include the load distribution server.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:  
2 offering in the file requesting that the client contact  
3 the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark  
4 file to exclude the protected server.

1 6. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:  
2 offering in the means to update the client's bookmark  
3 file to include the load distribution server a means to  
4 update the bookmark file to exclude the protected server.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2 including in the file requesting that the client contact  
3 the load distribution server a means by which the client will  
4 contact the load distribution server without intervention of  
5 the user.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising:  
2 including in the file requesting that the client contact  
3 the load distribution server a means by which to allow the  
4 user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the  
5 file requesting that the user of the client contact the load  
6 distribution server before contact with the load distribution  
7 server is established without intervention of the user.

1 9. A computer program product for preventing a client from  
2 directly contacting a server that is protected by a load  
3 distribution server from an overload of traffic, comprising:

4 instructions for determining whether the client's  
5 request to receive a file from the content server  
6 originated as a reference from the load distribution  
7 server or as a reference from the content server itself;  
8 and

9 instructions for, responsive to determining that  
10 the client's request to receive the file from the  
11 content server did not originate as the reference from  
12 the load distribution server or as the reference from  
13 the content server itself, sending to the client a file  
14 requesting that the client contact the load distribution  
15 server;

16 10. The computer program product of Claim 9, further  
17 comprising:

18 instructions for, responsive to determining that the  
19 request to receive the file from the content server did  
20 originate as the reference from the load distribution server  
21 or as the reference from the content server itself, sending  
22 to the client the file requested.

23 11. The computer program product of Claim 9, further  
24 comprising:

25 instructions for including in the file requesting that  
26 the client contact the load distribution server a means by  
27 which the client may directly contact the load distribution  
28 server through an initiative of a user of the client.

1 12. The computer program product of Claim 9, further  
2 comprising:

3 instructions for offering in the file requesting that  
4 the client contact the load distribution server a means to  
5 update a bookmark file to include the load distribution  
6 server.

1 13. The computer program product of Claim 12, further  
2 comprising:

3 instructions for offering in the file requesting that  
4 the client contact the load distribution server a means to  
5 update the bookmark file to exclude the protected server.

1 14. The computer program product of Claim 12, further  
2 comprising:

3 instructions for offering in the means to update the  
4 client's bookmark file to include the load distribution  
5 server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the  
6 protected server.

1 15. The computer program product of Claim 9, further  
2 comprising:

3 instructions for including in the file requesting that  
4 the client contact the load distribution server a means by  
5 which the client will contact the load distribution server  
6 without intervention of the user.

1 16. The computer program product of Claim 15, further  
2 comprising:

3 instructions for including in the file requesting that  
4 the client contact the load distribution server a means by  
5 which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read  
6 and react to the file requesting that the user of the client  
7 contact the load distribution server before contact with the  
8 load distribution server is established without intervention  
9 of the user.

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1 17. A system of preventing a client from directly contacting  
2 a server that is protected by a load distribution server from  
3 an overload of traffic, comprising:

4 means for determining whether the client's request  
5 to receive a file from the content server originated as  
6 a reference from the load distribution server or as a  
7 reference from the content server itself;

8 means for, responsive to determining that the  
9 client's request to receive the file from the content  
10 server did not originate as the reference from the load  
11 distribution server or as the reference from the content  
12 server itself, sending to the client a file requesting  
13 that the client contact the load distribution server;

14 18. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

15 means for, responsive to determining that the request to  
16 receive the file from the content server did originate as the  
17 reference from the load distribution server or as the  
18 reference from the content server itself, sending to the  
19 client the file requested.

20 19. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

21 means, included in the file requesting that the client  
22 contact the load distribution server, by which the client may  
23 directly contact the load distribution server through an  
24 initiative of a user of the client.

25 20. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

26 means, offered in the file requesting that the client  
27 contact the load distribution server, to update a bookmark  
28 file to include the load distribution server.

1 21. The system of Claim 20, further comprising:  
2 means, offered in the file requesting that the client  
3 contact the load distribution server, for updating the  
4 bookmark file to exclude the protected server.

1 22. The system of Claim 20, further comprising:  
2 means, offered in the means for updating the client's  
3 bookmark file to include the load distribution server, for  
4 updating the bookmark file to exclude the protected server.

1 23. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:  
2 means, included in the file requesting that the client  
3 contact the load distribution server, by which the client  
4 will contact the load distribution server without  
5 intervention of the user.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:  
2 means, included in the file requesting that the client  
3 contact the load distribution server, by which to allow the  
4 user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the  
5 file requesting that the user of the client contact the load  
6 distribution server before contact with the load distribution  
7 server is established without intervention of the user.